WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method for mapping disparate data objects from multiple data sources into a single,

2   reusable software component accessible to a software application performed by a computer, for

3   integrated access to the disparate data objects generated dynamically by or contained in multiple

4   data sources stored in at least one electronic storage device coupled to the computer, the method

5   comprising the following steps:

6   (a) for a software application, identifying data objects for mapping;

7   (b) employing an information integration software facility for connecting to data sources

8   of the data objects and registering the data objects with the information integration software

9   facility;

10   (c) using the information integration software facility for creating a single virtual data

11   object consolidating multiple attributes from the registered data objects;

12   (d) for the software application, establishing a connection to the information integration

13   software facility for referencing the virtual data object; and

14   (e) wrapping access to the virtual data object into a reusable software component

15   accessible directly from the software application.

1   2.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the information integration software facility

2   having access to multiple data sources, being chosen from a group comprising databases, files

3   and spreadsheets, containing or dynamically generating data from different hardware systems

4   and possibly storing data in different formats.

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1 3.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the information integration software facility

2 being chosen from a group comprising a multi-database server, a federated data server and an

3 information integration server.

1 4.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the software application accessing the reusable

2 software component within a single unit of work.

1 5.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the virtual data object being mapped into an

2 entity bean having attributes spanning multiple data sources.

1 6.   The method according to claim 5, wherein the entity bean being a container-managed

2 persistence entity bean.

1 7.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the software application including an

2 Enterprise JavaBeans (EJB) application.

1 8.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the virtual data object being accessed from a

2 group comprising Java servlets, Java Server Pages (JSPs) and Web Services.

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1   9.   An apparatus for mapping disparate data objects from multiple data sources into a single,

2   reusable software component accessible to a software application performed by a computer,

3   comprising:

4   a computer coupled to at least one electronic storage device for integrated access to

5   disparate data objects generated dynamically by or contained in multiple data sources;

6   programming means, performed by the computer, for identifying data objects for

7   mapping;

8   an information integration software facility for connecting to data sources of the data

9   objects and registering the data objects with the information integration software facility;

10   means, performed by the computer, for using the information integration software

11 facility for creating a single virtual data object consolidating multiple attributes from the

12 registered data objects;

13   means, performed by the computer, for establishing a connection to the information

14 integration software facility for referencing the virtual data object; and

15   means, performed by the computer, for wrapping access to the virtual data object into a

16 reusable software component accessible directly from the software application.

1   10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the information integration software facility

2   having access to multiple data sources, being chosen from a group comprising databases, files

3   and spreadsheets, containing or dynamically generating data from different hardware systems

4   and possibly storing data in different formats.

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1   11.   The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the information integration software facility

2   being chosen from a group comprising a multi-database server, a federated data server and an

3   information integration server.

1   12.   The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the software application accessing the

2   reusable software component within a single unit of work.

1   13.   The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the virtual data object being mapped into an

2   entity bean having attributes spanning multiple data sources.

1   14.   The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the entity bean being a container-managed

2   persistence entity bean.

1   15.   The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the software application including an

2   Enterprise JavaBeans (EJB) application.

1   16.   The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the virtual data object being accessed from a

2   group comprising Java servlets, Java Server Pages (JSPs) and Web Services.

1   17.   A program storage device readable by a computer tangibly embodying a program of

2   instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for mapping disparate data

3   objects from multiple data sources into a single, reusable software component accessible to a

4   software application performed by a computer, for integrated access to the disparate data objects

5   generated dynamically by or contained in multiple data sources stored in at least one electronic

6   storage device coupled to the computer, the method comprising the following steps:

7   (a) for a software application, identifying data objects for mapping;

8   (b) employing an information integration software facility for connecting to data sources

9   of the data objects and registering the data objects with the information integration software

10   facility;

11   (c) using the information integration software facility for creating a single virtual data

12   object consolidating multiple attributes from the registered data objects;

13   (d) for the software application, establishing a connection to the information integration

14   software facility for referencing the virtual data object; and

15   (e) wrapping access to the virtual data object into a reusable software component

16   accessible directly from the software application.

1   18.   The method according to claim 17, wherein the information integration software facility

2   having access to multiple data sources, being chosen from a group comprising databases, files

3   and spreadsheets, containing or dynamically generating data from different hardware systems

4   and possibly storing data in different formats.

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1   19.   The method according to claim 17, wherein the information integration software facility

2   being chosen from a group comprising a multi-database server, a federated data server and an

3   information integration server.

1   20.   The method according to claim 17, wherein the software application accessing the

2   reusable software component within a single unit of work.

1   21.   The method according to claim 17, wherein the virtual data object being mapped into an

2   entity bean having attributes spanning multiple data sources.

1   22.   The method according to claim 21, wherein the entity bean being a container-managed

2   persistence entity bean.

1   23.   The method according to claim 17, wherein the software application including an

2   Enterprise JavaBeans (EJB) application.

1   24.   The method according to claim 17, wherein the virtual data object being accessed from a

2   group comprising Java servlets, Java Server Pages (JSPs) and Web Services.

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